

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02597 171754Z

41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /086 W

----- 072773

P R 171625Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4843

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MRRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGFQC PFOR PBOR MOPS MMOL EAIR MR MO SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 2576 (NOTAL)

1. MOROCCAN C-130S ARE CONTINUING REGULAR NIGHT FLIGHTS TO NOUAK-
CHOTT AIRPORT. THERE HAS BEEN AT LEAST ONE RECENT ARRIVAL DURING
DAYTIME. ON DECEMBER 16, TWO AIR MAURITANIE PLANES WERE PUT OUT OF
COMMISSION WITH ENGINE TROUBLE. BOTH PLANES--F-27 AND DC-3--
WERE BEING USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES AT TIME OF DIFFICULTY. F-27
IS CURRENTLY AT NOUADHIBOU AIRPORT AND DC-3 IS AT ZOURATE AIRFIELD.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02597 171754Z

SECURITY AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY STRICT.

ON DECEMBER 13, PROCEDURES WERE PUT INTO EFFECT WHICH ALLOWED ENTRANCE INTO TERMINAL ONLY AFTER SHOWING OF IDENTIFICATION CARD. BY DECEMBER 15, ONLY PERSONS HOLDING TICKETS WERE PERMITTED IN TERMINAL. THIS MORNING, CARS OF NON-TICKET HOLDERS WERE NOT EVEN ALLOWED INTO AIRPORT PARKING LOT. LATTER PROCEDURE MAY BE TEMPORARY AND AS RESULT OF PRESENCE IN NOUAKCHOTT OF PRESIDENTS SENGHOR OF SENEGAL AND TRAORE OF MALI, BOTH OF WHOM ATTENDED MEETING OF SENEGAL RIVER DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION. (BOTH PRESIDENTS DEPARTED THIS AFTERNOON).

2. SAHARA SITUATION HAS HAD INTERESTING FALLOUT FOR SOVIETS. ACCORDING TO EMPLOYEE IN MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT, AEROFLOT WAS SCHEDULED TO LAND TUPOLOV 154 AT NOUADHIBOU AIRPORT ON DECEMBER 19. FLIGHT WAS DESIGNED TO INAUGURATE SOVIET-MAURITANIAN AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT (NOUAKCHOTT -6), WHICH ESTABLISHED AEROFLOT LANDING RIGHTS AT NOUADHIBOU. PLANE REPORTEDLY WAS TO TRANSPORT THIRTY SOVIET "TECHNICIANS" AND CONTINUE ON TO GUINEA BISSAU. AS RESULT OF SAHARA SITUATION AND UNSETTLED CONDITIONS AROUND NOUADHIBOU, GIRM REQUESTED ON DECEMBER 16 THAT SOVIETS POSTPONE FLIGHT UNTIL LATER DATE.

3. ACCORDING TO WELL-INFORMED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION EMPLOYEE RESIDENT IN NOUAKCHOTT, SUPPLY CHIEF (FRENCH NATIONAL) FOR MAURITANIA'S ETAT MAJOR HAS BEEN IN FRANCE FOR PAST TWO WEEKS ARRANGING SHIPMENTS OF ARMS FROM FRANCE TO NOUADHIBOU. SOME OF THIS MATERIEL HAS REPORTEDLY ALREADY REACHED NOUADHIBOU AND ADDITIONAL WEAPONS ARE EN ROUTE.

4. TRAINING OF NEW RECRUITS HAS BEEN MUCH IN EVIDENCE IN PAST 24 HOURS. SOME 50 NEW RECRUITS WERE OBSERVED JOGGING IN DESERT ON OUTSKIRTS OF NOUAKCHOTT AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 16. ANOTHER 100 OR SO RECENTLY-OUTFITTED SOLDIERS WERE PERFORMING EXERCISES IN NATIONAL GUARD COMPOUND ON MORNING OF DECEMBER 17. HANDYSIDE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROTECTIVE SECURITY, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, AIR SCHEDULES, AIRPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NOUAKC02597
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750438-1046
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751231/aaaabbnz.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NOUAKCHOTT 2576
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PBOR, MOPS, MMOL, EAIR, MR, MO, SS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006